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HERBERT HOOVER—H. G. WELLS' WORLD HISTORY

RECAPTURING THE SPIRIT OF THE PILGRIMS
AND SEVENTY OTHER FEATURES

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Baltic States, Hungary, etc., during the summer.

A careful re-survey of the situation proves, however, that between 2,000,000 and 2,500,000 children will have to be assisted with food and clothing during the coming winter, outside of Germany, and about 1,000,000 in Germany.

The Administration is conducted wholly by business men and business women. The operations in Europe are likewise carried out by business men and business women. The Ad-

ministration has received the cordial support of the Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the Churches, the Y. M. C. A., and Y. W. C. A. It has made no distinction as to race or religion. No child of Jew, Catholic, Protestant, of any race in this vast territory, has been turned hungry from its doors. The Red Cross is extending its medical and clinical service among the children in part of these countries—but medical service will be futile if the much larger problems of food and clothing shall fail.

INFLUENCE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN ON THE CAREER OF LLOYD GEORGE

By J. Hugh Edwards, M. P.

"**S**HOULD a man arise from the ranks of the people, as did Abraham Lincoln from the backwoods of America," declared Earl Curzon, in the Rede Lecture which he delivered before the University of Cambridge, in 1913, "a man gifted with real oratorical power and with commanding genius, I can see no reason why he should not renew in England the glories of a Chatham or a Grattan. His triumphs might be less in the Senate than in the arena; his style might not be that of the classics of the past; but he might, by reason of his gifts, climb to the topmost place where he would sway the destinies of the State and affect the fortunes of an Empire. Symptoms of such a power and style," added Earl Curzon, with a discernment begotten of an intuitiveness that rose superior to political prejudice, "are sometimes visible in the declamations of Mr. Lloyd George."

A FEW months later came the Great War, which sent its deafening reverberations throughout the whole world, and in the grim and terrible crisis

which threatened to overwhelm modern civilization Lloyd George found both his opportunity and his destiny. He has climbed to the topmost place not only in the British Empire, but, also, in the councils of European statesmen. Earl Curzon's intuitions have become fulfilled amid a blaze of glory which has transcended anything that he had conceived as even possible.

When one attempts to unveil the romantic sources of Lloyd George's career, one is immediately struck with its similarity, in its setting of circumstances and character, to that which marked the career of Abraham Lincoln. The log-cabin in which Lincoln was born has its counter-part in the cobbler's home in a remote Welsh village where Lloyd George's childhood was spent amid the sombre shadows that ever haunted its humble hearth. "My mother" he declared in after time, recalling the memories of those early years, "had a hard struggle to bring up her children. But she never complained and rarely spoke of her struggles. Our bread was home-made. We scarcely ever ate fresh meat, and I

remember that our greatest luxury was half an egg for each child on Sunday mornings."

EVEN in the days of his boyhood Lloyd George found his hero in Abraham Lincoln. He read the story of the lad who had risen from the obscurity of a log cabin to the Presidency of the United States, with an eagerness which made his pulses thrill with an intensity of both desire and resolve to follow in his footsteps. He found a quickening inspiration in the fact that it was in 1863—the year of his birth—that Lincoln's greatest utterance was made at Gettysburg, with its immortal declaration that "government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth."

When it was finally resolved that he should become a lawyer young Lloyd George readily and joyfully recalled that his great hero had chosen the legal profession as the avenue for the attainment of his ambitions in the direction of a political career; and he heavily scored with his pencil the following passage in Lincoln's biography, in record of Lincoln's views on the legal profession: "There is a vague popular belief that lawyers are necessarily dishonest. Let no young man, choosing the law for a calling, for a moment yield to the popular belief. Never stir up litigation. As a peacemaker, the lawyer has a supreme opportunity of being a good man."

It is interesting to recall that, during the years in which he practised law, Lloyd George studiously observed Lincoln's precepts in both letter and spirit. Altho he was entirely dependent on his profession for a means of livelihood, his inborn eagerness for effecting a settlement was constantly asserting itself to his own pecuniary loss. He never resorted to the costly processes of litigation while there was any chance of a satisfactory settlement by mutual

consent on the part of the contending parties.

IT was, however, the outbreak of the War, with its unparalleled demands on the faith and spirit of our statesmen, no less than on their resource of nerve and capacity, that Lincoln's determining influence upon Lloyd George was strikingly manifested.

Prior to the outbreak of the conflict there was not a statesman in England who, as he observed, could regard War with a deeper sense of repugnance than did he. At the time of the Boer War, fifteen years earlier, he lifted up his voice in vehement and fierce protest, and in the bitterness of his opposition he even went to the length of voting against the necessary supplies for the campaign. When, however, the crash of the War came in August, 1914, with its ruthless violation of the Treaty that secured protection for Belgium, to which Great Britain had set her hand as a signatory, Lloyd George was quick to see that Britain could not avoid so direct and insolent a challenge without sacrificing her honor. And so he faced the grim and devastating struggle for exactly the same reason that impelled Lincoln to embark upon the American Civil War. "Both parties deprecated war," as Lincoln subsequently observed in a review of the causes that had precipitated the conflict, "but one of them would make war rather than let the nation survive; and the other would accept war rather than let it perish."

In the case of Lloyd George, as in that of Lincoln sixty years earlier, his readiness to resort to the arbitrament of the sword was begotten of the deep conviction that the nation's honor and safety could be secured only by the shedding of blood.

IT is worthy of note that among British statesmen, Lloyd George was the first to discern the paramount

necessity of repairing the incessant wastage among the British forces in the field, which the system of voluntary recruiting was so manifestly failing to make good, by recourse to the sterner process of military conscription; and, when his colleagues in the Cabinet—notably Mr. Asquith and Mr. Balfour—shrank from so drastic a step on the ground that it would mean a violation of the fundamental principle of democratic government, he reminded them that, at the time of the American Civil War, when the outlook was deepening in its gloom, Abraham Lincoln, the greatest democratic figure in history, had not hesitated to resort to conscription in his eagerness to ensure the full array of the available forces of the United States for the triumph of his country.

His counsels in the secret chamber of the Cabinet found their echo in his public utterances. "The great Republic of the West won its independence and saved its national existence by compulsory service," he declared in the course of a speech which he made at Manchester in the early months of the War, "and it has been the greatest weapon in the hands of democracy, many a time for the winning and preservation of freedom," he significantly added. In the speech which Lloyd George delivered at the unveiling of the bronze statue of Lincoln in London last July he referred sympathetically to the sad expression that became so integral a feature of Lincoln's countenance. "I know," declared Lloyd George, "why his face appeared to become sadder as the years of the war rolled past. There were those who thought that he ought to have shown his abhorrence of war by waging it half-heartedly. There were those who thought that he ought to have shown his appreciation of victory

by using half-heartedness. He disdained both those counsels, and he was often reviled by both those counsellors. His tenderness was counted as weakness of character, his simplicity as proof of shallowness of mind, but the people believed in him all the time, they believed in him to the end, and they still believe in him."

THESE words are invested with an autobiographic significance. They reflect the attitude which Lloyd George himself displayed in similar circumstances of national peril and emergency. His comments on Lincoln's policy in the time of crisis, furnish a luminous commentary on his own action during the whole course of the Great War.

We have only to mark the striking parallel in the respective careers of the two men—the humble circumstances of their birth and early environment, their glaring lack of opportunity for any educational equipment, their romantic triumphs in spite of the heaviness of their handicap, their intensity of faith in the common people, with their passionate devotion to the cause of the down-trodden, and their implacable resolution to wage war even to its bitterest end in their determination to wring from it the security of civilization—we have only to mark these outstanding features in their careers to disprove the adage that, as often as God Almighty makes a great man, he invariably breaks the mold so that there shall be no replica of His handiwork. For He certainly must have reserved the mold in which Lincoln, the American backwoodsman, was framed, in order to ensure his duplicate in the lad from the cobbler's hearth in a remote Welsh village for a task which, tho different in degree, was like in kind to that in which Lincoln found his destiny and an ever-enduring fame.

